

"The passage of this bill will provide transit projects that will greatly improve the transportation resources available in our community," Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. said today following passage of H.R. 3, the Transportation Equity Act.

Jackson secured \$18 million for road, highway and other transportation enhancement projects in the 2nd Congressional District. The House version of this bill authorizes \$284 billion over six years for highways, public transit, and safety and research programs. A similar bill will soon be introduced in the Senate. Once approved, those two bills will go to a House-Senate Conference Committee to reconcile differences.

Rep. Jackson 's specific earmarks for local projects were:

-\$9,000,000 to improve roads, railroad grade separation and six bridges near 130th, Torrence and Brainard streets in Chicago near the Ford Assembly plant.

-\$3,000,000 for engineer and design work for a new interchange at Interstates 57 and 294.

-\$1,300,000 for construction of a pedestrian underpass across South Shore Drive at 67th.

-\$1,292,500 for the construction of segments that complete four high priority gaps in the Grand Illinois Trail bicycle paths through Chicago's Southland.

-\$2,000,000 for the Museum of Science and Industry's Access Improvement Project.

-\$500,000 for the PACE bus rapid transit initiative to improve services and decrease rider travel time in two busy south suburban corridors.

-\$907,500 for traffic light improvements in Matteson.

In addition, Rep. Jackson helped to ensure the inclusion of the following transit projects:

-The extension of the Red Line from its current terminus at 95th Street to 130th Street.

-Construction of the new Metra SouthEast Service commuter rail transit line from Chicago to Crete.

-Extension of the Metra Electric line from the University Park terminus to serve the proposed Abraham Lincoln National Airport in the south suburbs.